(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. However, while setting up a refinery at the well head would reduce the cost of transportation of crude to the refinery, there are a numer of related infrastructure and logistics issues that have to be considered in determining the efficacy of such a proposal.

(b) to (d) The Refineries sector has been delicensed since June, 1998 and a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but public and private sector enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries. Public Sector Undertakings may consider setting up a refinery in accordance with the decision-making authority delegated to them by Government vide Department of Public Enterprises' Office Memorandum No. DPE/11(2)/97-Fin dated 22-7-1997.

Ban on export of kerosene oil and ATF

†3503. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation and other oil producing companies have demanded imposition of ban on export of kerosene oil and ATF;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to revise its export policy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) With a view to ensuring that the country's demand for kerosene for the Public Distribution System is met from indigenous production, IOCL have requested Government to consider imposing restrictions on the export of Kerosene and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Recommendations of Agarwal Committee

3504. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of irregularity in the allotment of petrol pumps and a Committee headed by S.C. Agarwal was constituted to inspect such irregularities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of allotments which were found to be irregular in the report of the Committee with State-wise details;

(c) what action has been taken or is being proposed to be taken against such allotments; and

(d) what criteria has been set out regarding allotment of petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) A Committee comprising two retired Judges, appointed by the Supreme Court of India to enquire into certain selections made by the erstwhile Dealer Selection Boards, which were reported in the media during July-August, 2002, submitted its report to the Court on 29.9.2004. Out of the 409 cases of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships considered by the Committee, the Committee has found that selection in 297 cases was not proper.

The Supreme Court is now expected to take a decision in the matter on the basis of the report of this Committee. Further action in this regard will depend on the orders of the Court.

(d) The public sector oil marketing companies have framed guidelines for selection/allotment of dealerships/distributorships, including retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps). These guidelines contain detailed provisions, including objective and transparent criteria for evaluation of candidates, applying for allotment of such dealerships/distributorships.

OVL's Overseas contracts

3505. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total oil equity acrage that has been contracted abroad by OVL;

(b) the time-frame for the production of Oil/OEG from these acrages/ concessions; and

(c) what is the project production of oil from the overseas investment by the year 2010 and 2012?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) have Participating Interest (PI) in 14 exploration and production assets in 12 countries. The details are given in the Statement. (*See* below)